

# South Dakota National Guard

## Public Affairs Office

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## **Templeton assumes command of 2-196th Regiment**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. – Lt. Col. LeeJay Templeton, of Pierre, took command of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) during a ceremony Sept. 10 at the RTI in Sioux Falls.

Templeton assumed command from Lt. Col. Theodore Bartunek, a Rapid City native, who served as the commander since November 2014.

Branched as an engineer officer, Templeton, who also works fulltime for the Army Corp of Engineers, brings a unique skillset to the traditional field artillery and transportation courses that are taught at the RTI.

"I absolutely love the National Guard," said Templeton, who has served in the organization in various positions for nearly 23 years. "I know how important the mission of 2nd Battalion is, not only to the SDARNG, but across the entire nation and I am extremely excited for the opportunity to serve as the incoming commander."

Since November 2014, Bartunek, who will reassume a position at the state's Joint Force Headquarters, was responsible for the training of more than 900 Soldiers from across the nation and Denmark in field artillery, transportation and other functional courses. Bartunek and his staff also recently received a 100 percent on their national accreditation, which happens every three years.

"Lt. Col. Bartunek, your time has come and it has been a pleasure to serve with you," said Col. Scott Petrik, 196th Regiment Commander, during his speech at the ceremony. "Your performance as commander of 2nd Battalion, 196th Regiment is outstanding and the success of the courses and accreditation is a reflection of the dedicated service demonstrated by you and your staff."

"Lt. Col. Templeton, the bar is high and you have big shoes to fill," said Petrik. "The Soldiers of this unit excel in their positions, however I have no doubt you will help each of them continue to grow, develop and become even better leaders."

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High resolution photos are available at [www.flickr.com/photos/southdakotationalguard](http://www.flickr.com/photos/southdakotationalguard)



**160910-Z-ZZ999-001:** U.S. Army Lt. Col. Theodore Bartunek, 2nd Battalion, 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) outgoing commander, passes the battalion colors to Col. Scott Petrik, 196th Regiment commander during a ceremony Sept. 10, 2016, at the RTI in Sioux Falls, S.D. Bartunek held the position since November 2014 and was responsible for the training of more than 900 Soldiers from across the nation and Denmark. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Zuraff/Released)



**160910-Z-ZZ999-002:** U.S. Army Col. Scott Petrik, 196th Regiment commander, passes the 2nd Battalion, 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) colors to incoming commander, Lt. Col. LeeJay Templeton, Sept. 10, 2016, at the RTI in Sioux Falls. Templeton has served in the South Dakota Army National Guard in various positions for nearly 23 years. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Zuraff/Released)

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